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12 April 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR THE INTELLIGENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: Release of NIE's to Foreign Governments

1. The Board of National Estimates has reviewed SNIE 100-4-56, "Possibility of Chinese Communist Military Action Against Certain Offshore Islands" and NIE 61-56, "Probable Developments in Burma", with a view to their release to foreign governments.

2. With respect to SNIE 100-4-56, the Board notes that:

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b. The present estimate is essentially an updating and amplification of judgments in NIE 13-56, "Chinese Communist Capabilities and Probable Courses of Action Through 1960", which was released by the IAC

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Moreover, Watch Committee references to the threat of hostilities in the area are ordinarily released

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c. The present estimate refers to no specific intelligence sources, and clearly does not compromise any NOFORN material for which this Agency is responsible.

d. Although the estimate is an SNIE, this category of estimate has been released in the past subject to the understanding that no general precedent was thus created. (See e.g., IAC-M-209, 23 August 1955.)

On the basis of these considerations, the Board preceives no objection from an intelligence viewpoint to the release of this estimate and recommends such release.

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3. With respect to NIE 61-56, the Board notes that:

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b. During 1955, several estimates dealing with the Southeast Asia area were released [REDACTED]

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(See IAC-D-45/63, pages 5-6.)

c. None of the present estimate would compromise NOFORN materials for which this Agency is responsible. We are not able to determine whether there would be compromise of NOFORN materials for which other agencies are primarily responsible.

On the basis of these considerations, and subject to review by other agencies of the issue of compromise of NOFORN materials, the Board perceives no objection from an intelligence viewpoint to the release of this estimate [REDACTED] and recommends such release.

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4. The Board is reviewing the issues affecting release of NIE 88-56, "Probable Developments in Colombia", 10 April 1956, and will submit its recommendation for consideration at the next following IAC meeting.

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Deputy Assistant Director  
National Estimates

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